

**BUDGET NARRATIVE: HAVA SECURITY GRANT FUNDS**  
**Submitted by William Francis Galvin**  
**on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Background:** On May 15, 2018, Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin submitted a request to the Election Assistance Commission for Election Security Grant funding available under the Help America Vote Act. Massachusetts requested the full amount available, \$7,890,854, which we know requires a state match of \$394,543.<sup>1</sup>

On June 11, 2018, a meeting was held of members from the original state plan implementation group and other stakeholders to develop a spending plan for this additional HAVA funding. While there were five (5) program categories on the sample budget sheet, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has determined to spend the funding only on three (3) of those categories: Voting Equipment; Voter Registration Systems; and Cyber Security. Attached please find the proposed budget and below please find the required narrative.

**Voting Equipment:** We propose to spend \$2,000,000 on voting equipment, which we anticipate making available as grants to our local election officials. Currently, all voting equipment used in Massachusetts utilizes a paper ballot, most of which are tabulated with either optical or digital scan tabulators, but some municipalities still hand count their ballots. Statewide, each city and town uses an AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal to allow voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently. The AutoMark machines were purchased and are currently maintained using the original HAVA funding.

Using the new HAVA funds, we propose to offer grants to local election officials to replace existing equipment, some of which is no longer manufactured and hard to service. As part of this process, we propose to work through the state Comptroller's Office to add voting equipment to the statewide contract, which would enable cities and towns to purchase equipment and related accessories and services at an already agreed upon price.<sup>2</sup> This would include new voting equipment and new accessible voting equipment and we expect to have the program open in 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> We expect to use state eligible funds/activities to meet the match obligations. This includes costs paid for additional equipment for the statewide database and for cybersecurity.

<sup>2</sup> After the initial HAVA funding that provided reimbursement for replacement of lever machines, we noticed a wide range of pricing paid by municipalities for the same equipment, but based on the number of units ordered. By adding voting equipment to the statewide contract, we can avoid this issue and complications faced by local election officials in complying with state procurement laws and offer consistently lower pricing.

**Voter Registration Systems:** We propose to spend \$4,000,000 on voter registration systems, which would include \$2,000,000 for grants to our local election officials for additional technology such as electronic poll books and \$2,000,000 for upgrades and improvements to our statewide database of registered voters.

In 2016, the Legislature amended state law to allow for the use of electronic poll books, subject to certification by the Secretary's Office, to check-in voters in place of a paper voter list. While we understand our local election officials are anxious to use this newer technology, we are still evaluating the security of the equipment and intend to use some funding to utilize an independent testing authority to test the cyber security readiness and provide specific guidelines for security and usage. After we've determined the specific guidelines for use and certify electronic poll books, we will offer grants to assist our local election officials in obtaining such equipment. As with the voting equipment, we intend to work with the Comptroller's Office to add equipment and related services to the statewide contract to make the procurement process easier and more cost effective for our local election officials. We expect this program to be available in 2019.

We also anticipate using some of the funding to implement automatic voter registration (AVR), which was recently passed and is set to begin in Massachusetts starting on January 1, 2020. AVR will require certain modifications to our statewide database of registered voters and will likely require additional technology equipment. Preparations for AVR will begin shortly, but expenditures are most likely to occur in 2019 once the technical requirements are fully documented. Secretary Galvin is also advocating for election day registration (EDR) as well. If the law is changed to allow for EDR, funding will be used for upgrades to the statewide database of registered voters and to provide the technology and equipment needed by local election officials to implement EDR as well.

**Cyber Security:** We propose to spend \$2,285,397 (which includes \$1,890,854 in HAVA funds and \$394,543 in state matching funds) on cyber security. This includes specific new networking equipment and the workstations used by the local election officials to access the statewide database of registered voters and upgrades generally to the infrastructure of the election related activities of the Secretary's Office as well as for cyber security training for the local election officials.

Currently, local election officials access the statewide database of registered voters using workstations provided by this Office which connect through a dedicated network maintained by the Secretary's Office. We are upgrading the network security and installing additional hardware for each city and town. This includes the immediate installation of new switches and routers for each city and town, which will cost approximately \$1,000,000.

The new HAVA funding will be used on end-user cybersecurity training that will be provided to our local election officials over the next two months. This training will cost approximately \$5,000.

A portion of the funding will be spent to purchase additional equipment to be used for the backup of the statewide voter file, which will likely occur before November 2018 and cost approximately \$500,000.

We will also use the funding to continue our infrastructure upgrades on our election-related applications. On our website, voters can look up where they vote, confirm their registration and register to vote. We are continually working to improve security of these systems and will use the funding for this purpose. Additional security hardware and software have been or will be installed in the near future, well in advance of the November 2018 election.

Please note that some of the funding purposes overlap between the Voter Registration Systems and Cyber Security categories and therefore monies may be adjusted between the two categories moving forward with actual spending.

If you have any questions about this narrative or budget, please contact Michelle K. Tassinari, Director and Legal Counsel, Elections Division at 617-727-2828 or [Michelle.Tassinari@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:Michelle.Tassinari@sec.state.ma.us).

## 2018 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT

### Budget Information

CFDA # 90.404

Non-Construction Program

Name of Organization: MA Secretary of the Commonwealth

Budget Period Start: 3/23/2018

Budget Period End: 3/23/2023

### SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

FEDERAL & NON-FEDERAL FUNDS (Match)

(Consolidated Budget for total project term--  
up to 5 years as defined by grantee)

BUDGET CATEGORIES	PROGRAM CATEGORIES							TOTALS	% Fed Total
	(a) Voting Equipment	(b) Election Auditing	(c) Voter Registration Systems	(d) Cyber Security	(e) Communications	(f) Other	(g) Other		
1. PERSONNEL (including fringe)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					\$ -	0%
2. EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00					\$ 2,000,000.00	25%
3. SUBGRANTS- to local voting jurisdictions	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00					\$ 4,000,000.00	51%
4. TRAINING	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					\$ -	0%
5. All OTHER COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,890,854.00				\$ 1,890,854.00	24%
6. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (1-6)	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 1,890,854.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,890,854.00	
7. INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					\$ -	0%
8. Total Federal Budget	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 1,890,854.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,890,854.00	
11. Non-Federal Match	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 394,543.00				\$ 394,543.00	
12. Total Program Budget	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 2,285,397.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,285,397.00	
13. Percentage By Category	25%	0%	51%	24%	0%	0%	0%		

Proposed State Match 5.0%

A. Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government or some other non-federal entity?

N/A

If yes, please provide the following information:

B. Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (mm/dd/yyyy-mm/dd/yyyy):

C. Approving Federal agency:

D. If other than Federal agency, please specify:

E. The Indirect Cost Rate is: